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## WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS, 1954 and 1955

World cattle numbers continued to increase last year for the eighth consecutive year and now are estimated at 877 million, 1 percent greater than a year earlier and 18 percent above prewar. Numbers have increased 14 percent since 1946-50, according to the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service.

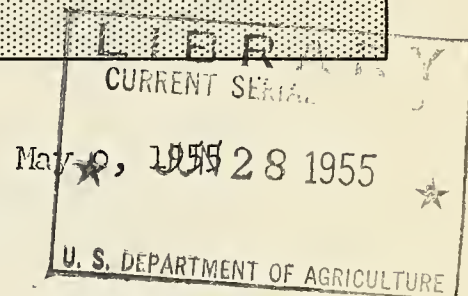
Cattle numbers increased in all major regions of the world during 1954. Numbers increased 2 percent in South America and 1 percent each in North America, Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania.

The increase in the world total during 1954 was about 10 million head; about the same as a year earlier, but much below that of the previous few years when cattle numbers were undergoing a rapid expansion. Compared with prewar, numbers are particularly large in Africa, North and South America and in Oceania. In Europe and Asia they are only moderately above prewar.

CATTLE: Estimated world total, by continent or area, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1954 and 1955

Continent or Area	Average		1954	1955	Increase or Decrease	
	1936-40	1946-50			1955	1955
					1936-40	1954
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
North America	96,700	112,600	130,500	132,300	+ 37	+ 1
Europe	102,500	95,700	104,000	105,000	+ 2	+ 1
U.S.S.R.	59,800	50,800	-	-	-	-
Asia	296,300	281,400	317,500	319,100	+ 8	+ 1
South America	105,500	126,500	140,800	144,300	+ 37	+ 2
Africa	64,400	86,600	95,300	96,600	+ 50	+ 1
Oceania	18,200	19,100	21,700	22,000	+ 21	+ 1
Total	743,400	772,700	866,800	877,300	+ 18	+ 1

A summary of this information was published in the April 25, 1955 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.



CATTLE: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1950-1955

Continent and Country	Month of estimate	Average		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
		1936-40	1946-50						
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>									
Canada	Dec. 1	8,245	8,883	8,243	8,292	7,936	8,906	9,371	9,473
Costa Rica		366	556	606	685	—	—	696	—
El Salvador	July	680	700	—	825	—	615	—	—
Guatemala	July	520	900	903	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras	July	524	1,000	950	—	1,140	1,175	—	—
Mexico	Dec. 31	11,716	13,530	14,455	14,700	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,800
Nicaragua		800	1,235	1,275	1,275	1,182	1,250	1,200	—
Panama		434	567	—	577	—	600	—	—
United States	Jan. 1	66,706	78,951	77,963	82,025	87,844	93,637	94,787	95,433
Cuba	Dec. 31	5,024	4,500	4,550	4,600	4,440	4,000	4,000	—
Dominican Republic	July	885	887	887	857	860	—	—	—
Estimated total		96,700	112,600	112,200	116,800	122,400	128,800	130,500	132,300
<b>EUROPE</b>									
Austria	Dec. 31	2,600	2,173	2,203	2,460	2,400	2,347	2,300	2,304
Belgium	Jan. 1	1,724	1,674	1,902	2,029	2,127	2,151	2,213	2,252
Denmark	Dec. 31	3,108	2,881	2,886	2,974	2,932	2,953	2,999	3,089
Finland	June 15	1,850	1,598	1,783	1,814	1,851	1,809	1,885	—
France	Oct. 1	15,504	15,067	15,404	15,808	16,235	16,194	16,889	17,273
Germany, Western	Dec. 1	12,114	10,831	10,883	11,148	11,375	11,641	11,641	11,521
Greece	Dec. 31	1,278	742	732	809	915	976	1,008	1,040
Ireland	June	4,021	4,093	4,322	4,376	4,309	4,397	4,504	—
Italy	Jan. 1	8,550	7,838	8,325	8,331	8,376	8,690	8,994	9,250
Luxembourg	Dec. 1	108	114	115	118	124	—	—	127
Netherlands	May	2,693	2,471	2,723	2,863	2,858	2,934	3,026	—
Norway	June 20	1,390	1,226	1,237	1,231	1,152	1,150	1,181	—
Portugal	Dec. 31	905	975	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	April 1	—	3,206	3,112	—	3,150	3,128	3,184	—
Sweden	Summer	2,959	2,705	2,648	2,633	2,532	2,554	2,582	—
Switzerland	April	1,663	1,471	1,530	1,607	1,682	1,635	1,593	1,595
United Kingdom	June	8,798	9,973	10,620	10,473	10,244	10,444	10,718	—
Yugoslavia	Jan. 1	4,281	5,322	5,236	4,789	4,885	5,055	5,157	5,283
Estimated total		102,600	95,800	99,600	99,400	101,100	102,400	104,000	105,000
Western Europe		76,500	74,400	76,700	76,600	77,200	78,200	80,100	81,000
Other Europe		26,100	21,400	22,900	22,800	23,900	24,200	23,900	24,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	59,800	50,800	56,000	57,200	58,800	56,600	—	—



# ASIA

Iran	March	2,797	2,700	3,500	3,600	4,000	5,000	5,000	—
Turkey 2/	Dec. 3 1/	8,611	10,826	11,001	11,076	11,363	11,708	11,803	—
British Malaya 2/		531	440	470	482	506	527	—	—
Burma 2/		6,165	5,030	—	—	5,358	5,769	6,045	6,100
Ceylon 2/		1,625	1,732	1,905	1,680	1,816	1,884	1,975	—
China 13/		25,600	23,000	23,800	24,600	26,400	28,800	—	—
India 2/		180,000	178,200	181,500	180,227	199,271	—	—	—
Indonesia 2/		7,669	6,330	6,725	7,318	8,417	8,838	—	—
Japan		1,798	2,167	2,450	2,460	2,671	2,826	2,897	—
Korea-South		922	646	699	393	572	658	668	—
Pakistan 2/		33,000	30,000	29,896	29,650	29,049	29,100	—	—
Philippine Islands 2/		4,340	2,340	2,601	3,058	3,249	3,466	3,988	—
Taiwan (Formosa) 2/		354	307	357	365	375	383	395	—
Thailand 2/		11,303	7,775	7,000	6,230	6,490	8,000	7,629	—
Estimated total 14/		296,300	281,400	286,300	285,500	308,600	316,400	317,500	319,100

# SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	July	33,762	41,150	39,000	38,000	39,000	40,900	42,000	44,000
Bolivia		1,842	1,493	1,493	1,650	1,850	—	—	—
Brazil		40,807	46,200	—	52,655	53,513	55,854	57,626	58,000
Chile		2,489	2,345	2,331	2,186	2,293	2,300	—	—
Colombia		8,010	14,148	15,513	15,512	15,090	13,000	13,650	—
Ecuador		1,300	1,520	1,487	1,300	1,200	2,000	1,600	—
Paraguay		3,259	3,890	3,865	3,763	3,857	4,432	—	—
Peru		—	2,790	2,824	3,140	3,189	3,190	3,189	—
Uruguay		8,297	7,875	—	8,154	8,000	8,013	7,819	—
Estimated total		105,500	126,500	128,200	131,900	133,900	138,300	140,800	144,300

# AFRICA

Algeria 15/	April	841	759	765	810	846	864	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		2,700	3,350	4,000	4,000	4,785	—	—	—
Kenya		5,239	5,150	5,550	5,650	—	—	6,650	—
Tanganyika		5,000	6,324	6,370	6,110	6,260	6,510	6,633	—
Uganda		2,466	2,464	2,534	2,714	2,714	2,745	2,800	—
Basutoland		437	430	—	401	—	—	—	—
Egypt 9/	July 1	2,076	2,810	2,937	3,000	3,021	2,888	—	—
Ethiopia (incl. Eritrea)	July	—	18,460	19,210	19,200	20,200	20,200	20,000	—
Federation Nyasaland and Rhodesias		3,187	3,912	4,163	4,152	4,165	4,192	4,274	—
French Morocco 15/		1,970	1,652	1,762	1,942	2,028	2,135	2,286	—
Madagascar 15/		5,172	5,700	5,412	5,663	5,892	5,898	5,910	—
Mozambique		548	632	700	738	768	797	—	—
Angola		2,306	1,281	1,228	1,394	1,400	1,221	1,157	—
Spanish Morocco		259	255	291	302	316	—	—	—
Tunisia 15/		494	394	359	397	475	401	483	—
Union of South Africa		11,636	12,285	11,513	11,565	11,768	11,655	—	—
Estimated total		64,400	86,600	89,300	90,500	93,700	94,300	95,200	96,600

# OCEANIA

Australia	Mar. 31	13,285	13,971	14,640	15,229	14,893	15,247	15,577	15,600
New Zealand		4,449	4,738	4,949	5,060	5,158	5,446	5,745	—
Estimated total		18,100	19,100	20,000	20,700	20,500	21,100	21,700	22,000

# Estimated world total

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1949 estimate of 8,243,000 is shown under 1950. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ June. 5/ Census as estimate for single year. 6/ Official statistics; may be under estimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ March. 9/ Data include buffaloes. 10/ Census December 31, 1934. 11/ Cattle one year old and older. 12/ May. 13/ 1951 includes 22 provinces, Manchuria and Sinkiang. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 14/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 15/ Data include only numbers taxed.		743,400	772,800	791,600	802,000	839,000	857,900	866,800	877,300
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Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service, April 1955.

The continued increase in numbers during 1953 and 1954 was reflected in larger cattle slaughter and increased world beef output. A further increase in beef production is likely in 1955 but the extent of the increase will depend primarily upon the course of cattle numbers in the main producing countries. Supplies of beef for export promise to be large again this year in Australia and New Zealand, but supplies from the principle exporting countries of South America will be relatively small as in 1954.

It now appears that relatively small amounts of beef and few cattle will be available for export from Mexico. On the other hand, in recent years beef output has been rising in the United Kingdom (the chief import market of the world), in other European countries and the United States, which also are important importers. Output of beef in Canada, which is at a high level, is increasing thus providing larger supplies for export. Increased purchases by the U.S.S. R. in South America, Oceania, and Europe are absorbing some of the increased production of beef.

Cattle numbers in North America increased nearly 2 million head during 1954. Numbers in the United States increased slightly, but most of this increase was in the number of cattle being grain fattened for slaughter. Apparently numbers in Mexico have not changed much in recent years.

Drought over large areas of northern Mexico, which has seriously affected the cattle industry for several years, was broken in late 1953 and 1954. Cattle numbers in northern Mexico, which have been most seriously affected by the droughts, are much below normal and increased numbers in southern and central Mexico have about offset the decreases elsewhere. Cattle numbers in Canada continue to increase. The 9.5 million on farms December 1, 1954 was the largest for that date since 1946.

Cattle numbers increased moderately in both eastern and western Europe in 1954. The increase was general, with almost every country showing a gain. Numbers continue to increase in the leading countries--France, the United Kingdom and Italy, but decreased slightly in Western Germany. It is expected that cattle numbers will continue to increase in France during 1955, but liquidation of cows may be greater than usual because the dairy price situation is not expected to favor increased dairy production.

The reduction in cattle numbers in Western Germany during 1954 was primarily in dual purpose cows, but there was also a slight reduction in numbers of young stock. The declines reflected the poor grazing and feed conditions during the second half of the year, a strong demand for slaughter cattle, a continuation of the mechanization of agriculture, and an accelerated TB eradication program.

The gain in livestock numbers in Greece has been slow since the end of the war. This was due to the great reduction in breeding herds and the necessity to slaughter breeding stock for food during the war. The competition of food production against feed production and the lack of forage and pasture has slowed the recovery.



Cattle prices and exports in Ireland continue at high levels this spring and the meat factories are concerned about adequate slaughter supplies at satisfactory prices. There has been a decline in cattle numbers due to the unusually large exports to the United Kingdom since December 1954. The official estimate for the number on farms January 1, 1955 is 3,983,000 head compared with 4,006,000 a year earlier. A significant part of this decrease was in bred heifers.

Numbers in the Eastern European countries on the whole continue to increase and substantial gains have been noted since the end of World War II in most countries. Cattle numbers in the U.S.S.R. continued to increase slightly between October 1953 and October 1954.

Cattle numbers in China are moderately above prewar and considerably above the low-level of 1946-50, on the basis of reports appearing in the Chinese press and radio. They have also increased steadily in India, Indonesia, and Taiwan. Cattle numbers in South Korea have increased sharply since the end of the fighting there, and numbers in Japan are at relatively high levels. The cattle population in the Philippines has recovered substantially from the low levels of World War II but apparently is not up to prewar.

There was a fairly large increase in cattle numbers in South America last year. The population either was maintained or increased in most of the important producing countries. Cattle numbers and beef production in Argentina were larger in 1954 than in 1953 and are expected to increase further in 1955. Livestock and meat production in Brazil increased very little during 1954. Feed and weather conditions were more favorable than a year earlier but government ceiling prices have discouraged expansion. Some price ceilings have now been removed but slaughter quotas are still in effect. Pastures in Uruguay during 1954 carried more total animal units than ever before, according to a recent study of the Uruguayan Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture. Although cattle numbers are below prewar levels, sheep numbers are very large. Cattle numbers have decreased in the southern part of the country where pastures have been plowed for the production of grain crops. Wheat and wool prices have been so favorable that there has been a trend away from less profitable production of cattle.

Cattle numbers continue to increase in Africa with increases being shown for most important countries, except Egypt, and the Union of South Africa. In recent years there has been considerable interest in the development of meat packing plants in the undeveloped areas of the continent. There are now an estimated 96 million head of cattle in Africa, slightly more than in the United States, but production of beef is small and little beef enters world commerce. A large part of that produced is consumed in the producing areas and hides are a principal commodity for export. Modern meat packing and canning facilities and better transportation will assist in developing the cattle industry there, by providing a market for its products. This will supplement the progress which has been made in achieving larger production from cattle due to better breeding, sanitation, and management practices.

The trend in cattle numbers and beef production in New Zealand and Australia is still upward. In both New Zealand and Australia numbers of dairy cows and beef cattle are at high levels.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.